

Fundamental to our democracy is that all men and women are vested with certain inalienable rights and voting is essential to those founding principles. Permanent residents have rights, the disabled should be protected, immigrants and the incarcerated should be included. The Supreme Court decision makes it clear that all people matter and all people should be counted.

We must remember that we are always more powerful united than divided and we all must continue to support equal representation and full protection of voting rights for all Americans. On this Restoration Tuesday, I give us all the charge to battle against the continued suppression of the American vote and stand strong by our principles of democracy, liberty and justice for all.

CONGRATULATING THE SEA ISLANDS SOCIETY

HON. MARK SANFORD

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today based on the simple notion of service to others, and accordingly I would like to say a few words regarding the Islands Society. A nonprofit headquartered on Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, the Society's mission is to encourage islanders around the world to participate in the international community. For that mission, the Society has been recognized as one of the up-and-coming organizations by the United Nations Foundation. They also named its president and founder, Michael Edward "Eddie" Walsh, as a person to watch who wants to change the world.

Our region's group—The Sea Islands Society—is the only nonprofit on Hilton Head Island to be recognized as a top-rated nonprofit by GreatNonprofits. For this, I wanted to congratulate them on the achievement.

I think it is encouraging to see an organization reaching out at a local level and actively encouraging them to become leaders in the field of foreign policy.

HONORING MR. MATT PERRY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Matt Perry, who will retire on April 2, 2016 after 28 years serving the citizens of Lake County, California in county administration. I wish him a happy retirement and hope he can spend more time with his wife, Julie, and his sons and daughter-in-law Chandler, Caleb, and Ashley.

Mr. Perry completed a master's degree in Public Administration and a bachelor's degree in History at Brigham Young University in Utah, before moving to California to begin his career with Lake County in 1988 as an Administrative Analyst. Through his exemplary skills and dedication to his work, he quickly earned more responsibility and higher positions, and

became a County Administrative Officer in 2012.

Lake County relied on Mr. Perry's fiscal and management expertise to navigate some of the county's most challenging periods, including the Great Recession and the Valley Fire in 2015. Mr. Perry's ability to manage everything from detailed budgeting tasks to the oversight of complex county projects demonstrates not only his value to Lake County, but also his passion for exemplary public service.

Mr. Speaker, throughout his career, Mr. Perry generously offered his time and knowledge to serve the people of Lake County and ensured prudent fiscal management for the county. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today and extend our best wishes to him in retirement.

TRIBUTE TO MIKE BARRATT

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mike Barratt for being named a 2016 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2016 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 640 business leaders and growing.

Mike serves as vice president and financial consultant at Charles Schwab where he has been helping his clients manage their wealth and reach their financial goals. He focuses on changing the lives of individuals through financial freedom and firmly believes that once you change one life, you can change many. Not only is Mike successful professionally but he is deeply involved in the community. He serves as a board member at the Food Bank of Iowa and works tirelessly to eradicate food insecurity in his community.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Mike in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud him for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Mike on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2016 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

ESSAY BY GRANT DENTRY

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight from across the political spectrum that sheds a light on the concerns of our younger constituents. Giving voice to their priorities will hopefully instill a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Grant Dentry attends Pearland High School in Pearland, Texas. The essay topic is: Select an important event that has occurred in the past year and explain how that event has changed/shaped our country.

For 54 years, the United States and Cuba have been hostile towards each other. The hostility stemmed from close diplomatic relations formed between Cuba and the USSR against the United States during the Cold War era. However, as of December 17, 2014 Barack Obama and Cuba's current leader Raul Castro agreed to normalize the relations between each other and lift restrictions placed on travel, trade and diplomatic embassies.

Reuniting the alliance of the United States and Cuba is now called "The Cuban Thaw". This is a significant event because it ends the last of the conflict and tensions from the Cold War which ended in 1991. This event should help both countries because we will soon be able to trade freely with each other which helps boost both economies. Also, the House of Senate removed Cuba from the United States State Sponsor of Terrorism list and the United States returned five Cuban prisoners after they returned two of our prisoners. Both governments have allowed visitation between the two countries and are positioned to lift the ban on financial transactions between banks. Cruise lines have also been approved by both governments as well as commercial flights between the countries which is expected to bolster tourism. U.S. telecommunications companies are now allowed in Cuba which will help their infrastructure, although many Cubans may not be able to afford cell phones yet. Reuniting with Cuba may also help to soften and eliminate their communist ways of government. Because of these two countries cooperating with each other again, it builds a better reputation for the U.S. and helps expand our global networking and economic power. Many American business owners can now expand their markets to include Cuba which is a short distance from the Florida coast. The United States is now open to Cubans who want to expand their business into the U.S. which will greatly help Cuba and create new jobs in both countries.

Due to this new alliance, both countries can become stronger and benefit from each other through mutual trade, travel and business. It is a major boost to the U.S. economy because we can import and export with Cuba at a low cost due to the close proximity. The improved business activity and restored diplomatic relations with a close neighbor is good for the United States and the world.